



"Phantom of the Fox" protestors picket "9 to 5" musical

October 1st, 2010 12:42 am ET



Protestors waved signs like this to send message to Fox theatre board.

Photo: Clear Photography

Theatregoers attending this week's opening of ["9 to 5" the musical](#) at the Fox Theatre were greeted by an unusual welcoming committee: Phantom of the Fox protestors. The protestors have vowed to picket the show during its entire run through October 3 in order to continue putting pressure on the Atlanta Landmark board of directors to allow Joe Patten, the beloved "Phantom of the Fox" to remain in his apartment above the venue for the remainder of his days.

Board members information published

The Atlanta Landmark board of directors is the group responsible for oversight of the Fox Theatre. The panel revised the terms of Patten's lease in August. Instead of allowing Patten to stay rent free for the rest of his life, the new contract stipulates that he can remain until he is physically unable.

The board members contend that the Fox Theatre cannot provide elder care.

Patten's supporters suspect the board has other motives. Last week they posted the names and contact information of the board members on their [Facebook fan page](#) and encouraged fans to write call and email.

Through a fan page that is reaching a population of nearly 10 thousand, they continue to organize rallies in front of the theatre. They intend on showing up before future shows.

Some fan page members have decided to boycott the Fox. Phillip Doolittle for instance, shared that he recently received a notice from his child's school about a field trip to the theatre. He posted that he plans to tell the school that his child won't go until the board "comes to its senses and resolves the Patten situation."

Fan page organizers have not called for a full blown boycott - yet.

Patten served eviction notice

In the meantime, Patten has not signed the new lease and according to family friend Daniel Graham [received an official eviction notice](#) last month. He must leave his Fox Theatre apartment by December 1.